(b) whether these industries have approached Government and expressed fear of the closure of their industries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon certain modifications made in December, 1996 in the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, a number of representations have been received from the Indian industry that the increasing imports of certain commodities from Nepal including vanaspati, copper-wire, acrylic yarn, zinc oxide and steel pipes and tubes etc. have adversely affected the Indian industry. As provided in the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, the process for taking appropriate measures in consultation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been initiated Suitable amendments to be made in the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade to protect the interest of the Indian industry are also being considered.

Foreign exchange inflow through the FIPB Channel

2299. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of FIPB approvals cleared by Government during this financial year as on 31st October, 2001;

(b) the total value of foreign exchange inflow into the country as per the approvals;

(c) the amount which has actually come into the country;

(d) the reasons for the slow inflow of the foreign exchange; and

(e) what steps are being taken for the quick flow of foreign exchange into the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH) : (a) and (b) A total number of 531 proposals for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) involving a total amount of Rs. 10,861.25 crore (provisional) have been approved by the Government during the period from 1-4-2001 to 31-10-2001.

(c) The actual inflow of FDI during the period from 1-4-2001 to 31-10-2001 is Rs. 5855.43 crore (provisional).

(d) and (e) The inflows of FDI are dependent upon various factors such as domestic economic conditions, world economic trends and strategies

of global investors. The inflow of FDI to approval ratio has shown consistent improvement, increasing from 17% in 1992 to 52% in 2000 and 72% in 2001 upto September, 2001. Government has set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority to act as a single-point interface between the foreign investors and various approval authorities, and to facilitate speedy project implementation.

Review of Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty

2300. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty is due for review in December, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Nepal has insisted that the Treaty be extended in its present form;

(c) whether India is considering prescription of minimum value addition to Nepalese imports and also for unilateral right for checks in case of sudden surge in imports; and

(d) what other measures/safeguards Government are likely to insist on to protect the domestic industry, while reviewing the Treaty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) to (d) Discussions are in progress between the concerned authorities of India and Nepal to resolve certain issues that have emerged during the implementation of the India-Nepal Treaty of Trade, as modified in December, 1996, prior to the extension of its validity. A limited extension of the Treaty for a period of three months from December 5, 2001 has been agreed to enable the negotiations to the Treaty to be concluded.

Foreign investment in Agrani Satellite Services

2301. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the proposal of Agrani Satellite Services Limited to induct 74 per cent foreign equity into the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;